

LOUISIANA RECOVERY AUTHORITY

Resolution to direct CDBG Funding for FEMA Match for Local Government Emergency Infrastructure

January 12, 2006

Overview: Provide an initial allocation of \$100 million of Supplemental Community Development Block Grant dollars to assist local governments with the required match for emergency infrastructure projects to be administered by the State Office of Community Development.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Local government revenues have been severely impacted by the effects of Hurricanes Rita and Katrina. The current estimates provided by the Louisiana Recovery Authority show an estimated loss of \$4-5 billion in local revenues projected over the next five years. This loss was disproportionately spread across the communities and parishes of South Louisiana. The ability to recover government services using the FEMA Public Assistance funding program relies upon the availability of matching funds. In cases where the damage to a community prohibits it from paying its own share for FEMA assistance, the Supplemental Community Development Block Grant dollars provided by Congress should be used to accelerate the recovery of local government functions through the repair of critical infrastructure.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the following resolution be adopted:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Recovery Authority does hereby recommend that \$100 million be provided to units of general local government for a portion of or the entire match amount required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency Public Assistance Program for emergency local government infrastructure projects.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Recovery Authority directs LRA staff to work with the State Office of Community Development to develop a partial action plan for allocation of these funds to local governments using the following guidelines:

- A) *That the funding be provided for cases of emergency need;*
- B) *That the funding be provided as match for projects eligible for FEMA Public Assistance;*
- C) *That the funding be provided to parishes which have adopted the latest available base flood elevations of the FEMA Flood Recovery Guidance;*
- D) *That the funding be provided to parishes or communities which have adopted, implemented, or are in the process of implementing, the new statewide*

building code standards adopted in the 2005 1st Extraordinary Session of the Louisiana Legislature;

- E) That the funding be provided to communities for projects recommended through a broad community planning process; and*
- F) That the projects receiving funding follow the best design for delivery of services in light of the population shifts and changed faces of many Louisiana communities.*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any partial action plan for Supplemental Community Development Block Grant dollars be approved by the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget prior to submission to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the programs approved using Supplemental Community Development Block Grant funding provided through a state agency should be subject to the oversight of the appropriate legislative committee for such agency and activity.